

March 10th, 2022

RE: Judiciary Committee Hearing March 14th, 10:00 am concerning SB16 and HB5416.

From: Mark Martinez
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I wish to submit my written testimony regarding these two proposed bills for the record. I have specific objections regarding these two bills. My main theme and argument is neither of these bills would have any measurable difference with the gun crimes being committed in this state. From my research in this matter, where an individual has been arrested, gun crimes that have occurred in our larger cities have been committed by individuals that are not currently able to legally possess a firearm. This is also common in the rest of the country. These firearms were not purchased, traded, possessed, carried or used legally. I do not see how any of these proposed new laws would stop these crimes.

HB 5416 refers to limiting how many firearms can be purchased in a time period. How would this slow or stop gun violence? Firearms and target shooting along with hunting are passionate hobbies for myself and others. More people are killed in car accidents than non suicide firearms shootings each year. So are we gonna limit how many cars someone can buy each year? This just doesn't make any sense.

I have many objections to SB16. For brevity's sake, I'll discuss three. The so-called ghost gun ban. An individual that creates a lower receiver for an AR15 type rifle and then buys all the other parts legally at a gun store or online and then assembles all those parts creates a firearm as per current state laws. If that person is not eligible to possess a firearm, they are committing a crime. This makes someone that creates firearms as a hobby go through more steps in a registration process that the criminals would just ignore.

The proposal to make more places off limits to firearms concerns me as well. How does a lawful gun owner and pistol permit carrying citizen protect themselves in a town hall or a city bus if they are attacked? Would a potential mugger see a sign on a city bus that said "no guns allowed" think that they should go somewhere else because they don't want to break the law? This is simply another ineffective proposal. I am ok going to a XL Center event unarmed, as I go through metal detectors and have multiple police, fire and ambulance personnel there to protect me and serve as a deterrent to anyone thinking of carrying out a violent act against others.

My last concern is with changing the definition of an "assault weapon" and an additional registration of certain currently owned and legally possessed firearms. I own an AR15 Connecticut "other" that was legally purchased and documentation of that sale went to state police. Semi automatic rifles are used in 1% of crimes in this country and I have not seen on the news that any of the recent shootings in Connecticut were committed with a long gun.

I feel all these proposed laws do nothing more than trample our 2nd amendment rights, make our hobby and passion more arduous to maintain our law abiding status and would make me, a former Glastonbury Police Auxiliary Officer of 17 years, more unsafe in my daily life. The other parts of the bill to create a firearms task force is a great step forward to hold individuals accountable and restore some justice in our great state.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Martinez